UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.8
8 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian SSR)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund

1. At its 16th meeting on 22 May 1991, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/46/170).

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed concern at the prospect of appropriations from the contingency fund being added to the resource base of the future biennium.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee noted with appreciation the conciseness and clarity of the report.

4. There was general agreement in the Committee that, although the first two years of experience with the use and operation of the contingency fund had been satisfactory, it was premature to make a definitive judgement on the appropriate level of the fund and on its mode of operation.

5. The Committee reiterated the need to implement the recommendation of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 44/200 B regarding the progressive extension of the provision of statements of programme budget implications to all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Although the Committee was aware of the difficulties involved, it recommended that the Secretariat should pursue its efforts to extend the provision of such statements, in the most appropriate manner, to subsidiary bodies in accordance with relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/200 B.

6. The Committee stressed that the Secretariat's efforts should also include measures which would enhance general awareness of the budgetary process in these bodies and in all its units.

7. The Committee recommended that the mandate of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters should be fully respected.

8. The Committee recalled the provisions of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation regarding the programmatic content of the statements of the programme budget implications submitted to intergovernmental bodies and recommended that in all such statements the Secretariat should place greater emphasis on the programmatic implications of draft resolutions or decisions.

9. The Committee expressed concern that in most of the statements on programme budget implications submitted in the last two years, there had not been a precise indication, as required by the General Assembly (resolution 41/213, annex, para. 9), of alternative solutions for carrying out new activities, in case it were not possible to finance all or part of the additional requirements from the contingency fund. Although the Committee recognized that the identification of such alternatives in some cases might be difficult, it considered that it was a requirement which was an integral part of resolutions 41/213 and 44/211. The Committee strongly recommended that this requirement should be strictly observed and that viable alternatives should be submitted to Member States in all statements of programme budget implications or revised estimates.

10. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-third session, and in the light of the experience gained during the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, which would be also the first biennium of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, a report on the review of the procedures for the

provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

11. The Committee noted that the concept of extraordinary expenses, as mentioned in paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General, should be further elaborated at an appropriate stage and by the appropriate intergovernmental and expert bodies of the United Nations.